(e) Ceilings of expenditure of Rs. 28·76 crores had been approved for relief in the wake of the demage caused by floods in Andhra Pradesh during 1988.

Foodgrains production below potential

1237. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state;

(a) whether it is a fact that the higher foodgrains production in the country during 1988-89 as against the production during 1987-88 would be far below the created potential;

(b) if so, by what percentage the anticipated higher foodgrains in the country is likely to fall short of the created 'potential'; and

(c) what is the foodgrains production target by 2001 stating the basis on which the production target has been anticipated?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND COOPERATION IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (SHRI SHYAM LAL YADAV) : (a) The target of production of foodgrains during 1988-89 at 166·57 million tonnes was fixed taking into consideration the created potential. Production of total foodgrains in the country during 1988-89 is expected to be in the range of 166·57--170 million tonnes as against the production of 138·41 million tonnes in 1987-88.

(b) Does not arise.

(c) In the long term perspective of the Seventh Plan the target of production of foodgrains of 235-240 million tonnes has been projected for 1999- 2000. The perspective plan for agriculture development aims at maintaining self-sufficiency in foodgrains with the objective to maximize productivity of resources and to promote conservation and environmental protection so as to arrest the degradati on of the natural endowments of soil, water and other resources.

Export of sugar

1238. SHRI KRISHNA KUMAR BIRLA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES be pleased to State :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have been exploring the possibility of exporting sugar from the country;

(b) if so, what is the anticipated rise in the sugar production in the country and what percentage of the total sugar production is proposed to be exported stating the countries of export and the foreign exchange likely to be earned as a result thereof; and

(c) whether to achieve higher sugar production and to meet the export requirements Government propose to give any incentives to the sugar Industry in the country; if so, the decision by Government in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CIVIL SUPPLIES (SHRI SUKH RAM): (a) to (c) Taking into account the fact that the sugar production in the country during the current sugar season 1988-89 (October-September, 1989) was likely to be more than the production of 91·10 lakh tonnes of sugar achieved during the previous season, the Government had decided to export some quantity of sugar during the current season. The final quantum of exports and the countries to which the exports are proposed and the foreign exchange likely to be earned, would depend upon the total production during the current season, availability of sugar for internal consum-